

Fall 2025

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



## Welcome to the fall 2025 semester!

### ENVS Students 2025

We are happy to welcome the 43 new majors starting this semester. This brings our department to 210 ENVS major and minor students. We had 63 students graduate in the 2024-25 academic year.

**\*\*Feel free to come visit us at the department office in TAH 3050\*\***

### New semester and new programs!

Our new Minor in Sustainability has begun this semester. We are looking forward to our new Graduate Program coming soon. Contact Dr. Fulton ([julian.fulton@csus.edu](mailto:julian.fulton@csus.edu)) for more information.

The pictures are from Dr. Kneitel's recent sabbatical to Morocco and Spain. Top picture is in the Camargue Nature Park (UNESCO site in southern France) and the lower picture is from the Sahara, Morocco

### IN THE NEWS:

Welcome to new Department Chair, Dr. Jamie Kneitel

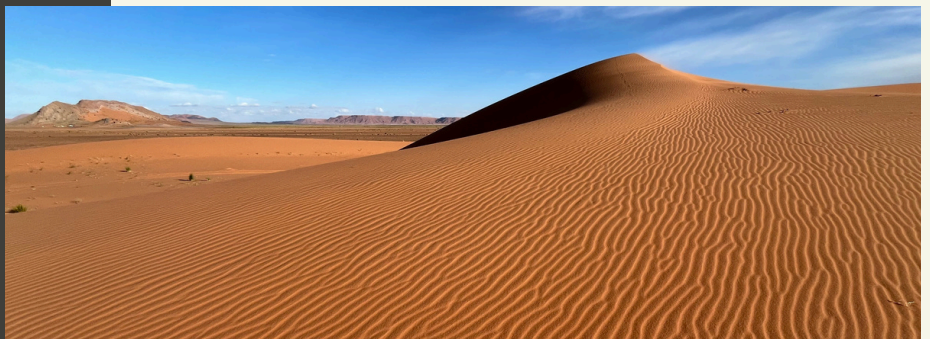
Huge thanks for 6 years of outstanding leadership from outgoing Chair, Dr. Wayne Linklater

Congratulations to Dr. Julian Fulton on his promotion to Full Professor

Dr. Fulton featured in Sac State News:  
<https://www.csus.edu/news/newsroom/stories/2025/6/julian-fulton.html>

Congratulations to Dr. Si Gao on receiving a CSUS-RCA grant to continue soil health monitoring with community partners

New study-abroad course on ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH in Africa (Senegal). Contact Dr. Sigride Asseko ([asseko@csus.edu](mailto:asseko@csus.edu)) for more information



[envs-sc@csus.edu](mailto:envs-sc@csus.edu)

## Faculty accomplishments

### Dr. Aranda

#### **Recent Publications:**

Dr. Alfonso Aranda revised and resubmitted a co-authored manuscript titled, "The Case for Community-Owned and -Managed Research and Community Health Assessments: Promotora-Researchers' Partnerships Generate Adaptive Health Evaluation Tool," for publication in the journal of Community Science. Concurrently, Alfonso synthesized elements of his PhD dissertation to draft a new manuscript titled, "Certainty of Exposure: Residential Risk Perceptions and Environmental Justice in Rural Agricultural Settings" which will be submitted in September to the journal of Health, Risk & Society.

#### **Website:**

Created and published the Knights Landing Environmental Health Project website ([klehp.com](http://klehp.com)). It exhibits infographics, recent news, publications, and a list of community partners.

### Dr. Fulton

#### **Recent publication:**

I will be publishing an article with ENVS alum Dylan O'Ryan (now an MS student at CSUEB) in the journal Community Science titled "Strategies for Success: Participatory Science Involvement in Water Quality Environmental Governance"

#### **Recent presentation:**

Gave the talk "Strategies for Success: Participatory Science Involvement in Water Quality Environmental Governance" at the Conference for Advancing Participatory Sciences in May.

### Dr. Gao

#### **Recent publication:**

New article published in April 2025: "Boosting soil health and crop nutrients with locally sourced biochar and compost in Sacramento urban agriculture". Published in Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems. This is a student-community collaboration co-authored with a student researcher, Sac State sustainability, and community partner Three Sisters Gardens. Using on-site compost and locally sourced biochar, we improved soil water holding capacity, nutrient availability, organic matter, and key nutrients in corn, highlighting a resource-efficient pathway to healthier urban soils and crops. Link: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/sustainable-food-systems/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2025.1546426/full>

#### **Recent grant:**

CSUS-RCA grant to continue soil health monitoring work with community partners this academic year!

### Dr. Kneitel

#### **Recent publication:**

Rennert, M. & J. M. Kneitel. 2025. Variable effects of a fire-retardant gradient on seasonal wetland communities. Ecotoxicology: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10646-025-02855-2>. (Lead author was a CSUS graduate student)

#### **Recent presentation:**

Gave the invited talk "A comparison of constructed and natural vernal pools across California" at the conference, Conserving and Restoring Temporary Pond Landscapes in Europe at the Universidad Internacional de Andalucía, Spain. The co-author, Sean O'Brien, was a CSUS graduate student.

### Dr. Linklater

#### **Recent publication:**

van Eeden et al. 2025. Species nativeness as a cultural paradigm in conservation. Biological Conservation 311, 111415.

#### **Recent grant:**

A Novel Phenomics Analysis Framework for HFpEF patients in Multiethnic Populations: An Ancillary Study to HeartShare. A 5-year NIH-funded project with UC-Davis PIs to investigate environmental influences on cardiovascular health.